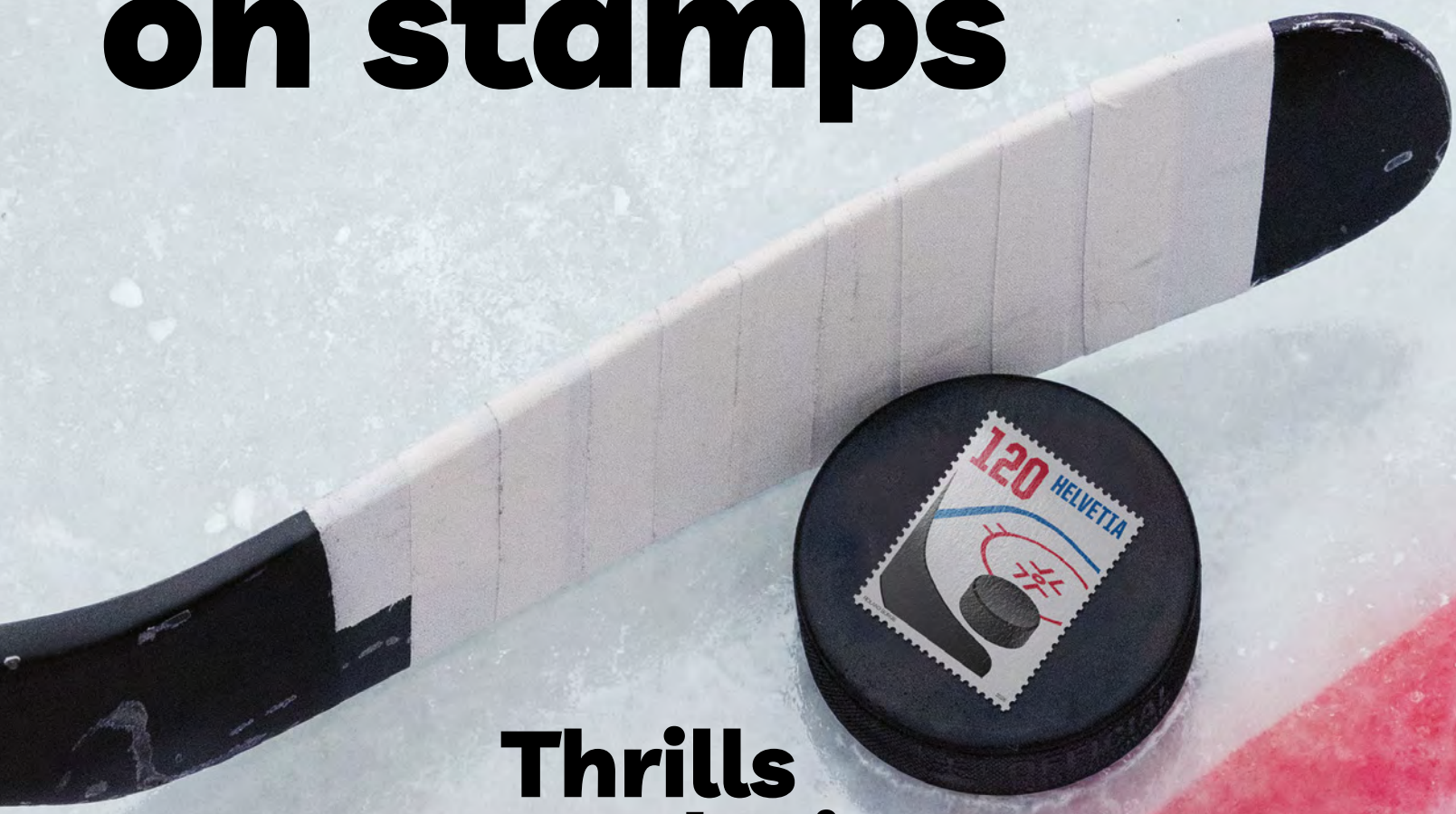
1·26 The Culture and Collector's Magazine

Focus on stamps

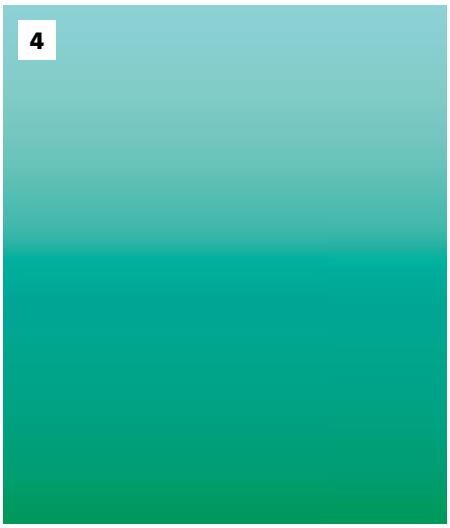


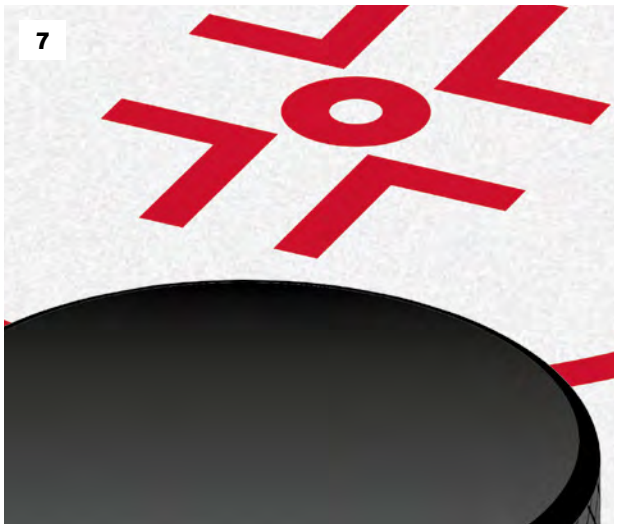
Thrills on the ice

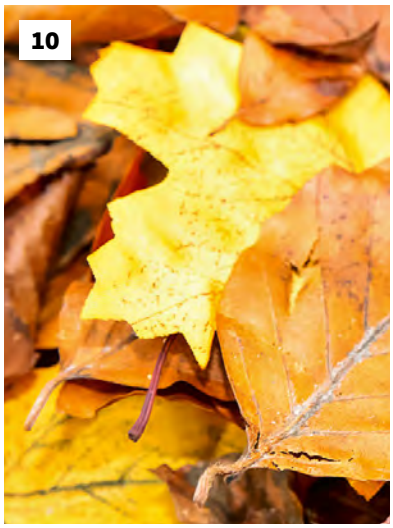
Focus

Solidarity for hedgehogs – and for sustainability

Our commitment to art







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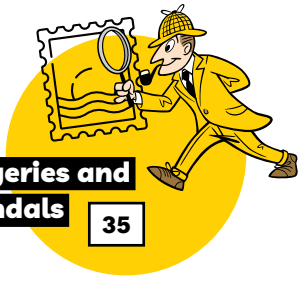
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Photo: Ronny Steck

Swiss Post – Switzerland's cultural powerhouse

Swiss Post has always seen itself as part of a vibrant society – as a link between people, regions and generations. It has been promoting art since 1924, is a co-founder of the Museum of Communication and helps to preserve cultural heritage by issuing stamps. But what do stamps and art actually have in common?

For me, it's about their ability to surprise us and change our view of the world. I'm fascinated by the way they communicate important issues such as the environment, society and digitization on such a small space, encouraging us to reflect.

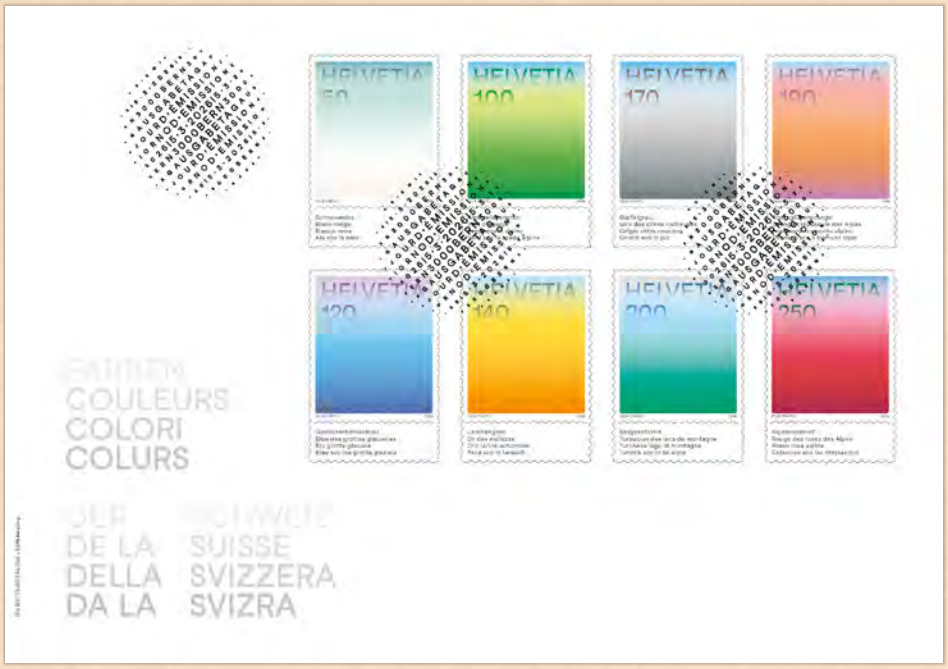
Just like art, stamps support artists, tell stories, preserve traditions and promote a culture that is both rooted in federalism and cosmopolitan – a culture that brings people together.

In this issue, we're broadening our horizons: it is the first edition to be published with the new expanded name of "Focus on stamps – The Culture and Collector's Magazine". You can now find sections that shine a light on art, communication and philately in unexpected ways: from Swiss Post's commitment to art and insights into the Museum of Communication to darker chapters of philatelic history, including forgeries and scandals.

And of course, this issue also presents more artworks in miniature format: the new "Natural patterns" stamps, which reveal the beauty in everyday things; the special stamp and articles on the animal of the year, which highlight the diversity and vulnerability of nature; and the stamp celebrating the 125th birthday of Alberto Giacometti and his most famous work, a symbol of his unwavering search for humanity.

Stefan Bühler
Head of Stamps & Philately – Swiss Post

PS: I'm looking forward to exploring the connections between art, culture and philately with you – and to marvelling time and again at small details.



Set on first-day cover E6

Light and shade

If you sit outside a mountain chalet after a long day of hiking, you might be lucky enough to enjoy the beautiful Alpine glow orange hue of of the sunset. Graphic designer Felix Pfäffli explains the story behind this colour and much more.

Felix Pfäffli, where does the Alpine glow orange come from?

From a colourful stamp set Swiss Post asked me to design. I was thrilled to receive the request, because playing with colours is exactly the kind of thing I love to do. It was also a unique challenge that taught me a lot. I was excited to dive right into the topic.

How did you approach the task?

I designed three potential sets. After one of the variants had been selected for the stamps, the detailed work began: I got out my colour swatches and experimented with individual shades and lettering. I quickly realized that it was less about the actual colours than the feelings and memories they evoked. So I also used gradients, which added two or three extra shades to the main colour. I wanted to explore the question of how to bring colour and atmosphere together. All the shades I used are found in nature – from the warm evening light in the Alps to the deep turquoise of mountain lakes.

Were there any particular challenges involved?

A few! Firstly, the colours themselves – or to be more precise, the gradients. It's not easy to print gradients for special colours. Every stamp is printed in a carefully selected special colour that defines the core colour, while the border colours are produced using the CMYK model. So every stamp is an attempt to translate a feeling into colour. Another challenge was the format: it's ambitious to convey so much emotion on such a small space. But I was surprised at the amount of impact a tiny printed product can have. It was also important to incorporate the names of the colours – in other words, the text. They reflect Swiss values and work in harmony with the actual colours of the stamp to create an impact. To help achieve this effect, the names are printed in the four national languages on the white lower border of the stamp, separated by fine perforations.

What is your personal connection to stamps?

For me, stamps are a lovely reminder of my grandfather: we spent hours sorting stamps together. He taught me a lot and knew everything about the different halftone screens, special colours and any printing errors. That left a deep impression on me.

Lucerne-born graphic artist Felix Pfäffli is internationally renowned for his innovative graphics solutions.

Products

Stamps (self-adhesive)

Sheet of 10 stamps
0.50 Snow white
★ A630 361 / ⊙ A630 381 / *CHF 5.00*
1.00 Alpine meadow green
★ A630 362 / ⊙ A630 382 / *CHF 10.00*
1.20 Glacier cave blue
★ A630 363 / ⊙ A630 383 / *CHF 12.00*
1.40 Larch gold
★ A630 364 / ⊙ A630 384 / *CHF 14.00*
1.70 Summit grey
★ A630 365 / ⊙ A630 385 / *CHF 17.00*
1.90 Alpine glow orange
★ A630 366 / ⊙ A630 386 / *CHF 19.00*
2.00 Alpine lake turquoise
★ A630 367 / ⊙ A630 387 / *CHF 20.00*
2.50 Alpine rose red
★ A630 368 / ⊙ A630 388 / *CHF 25.00*

Set
★ A630 150 / ⊙ A630 550 / *CHF 12.20*

Set of blocks of four
★ A630 160 / ⊙ A630 560 / *CHF 48.80*

Covers

Set on first-day cover E6
⊙ A630 580 / *CHF 13.45*

Single stamp on first-day cover C6 (8 covers)
⊙ A630 600 / *CHF 21.40*

Block of four on first-day cover C6
⊙ A630 630/ *CHF 58.00*

Unstamped covers
C6 (162×114 mm)
★ A630 700 / *CHF 1.15*
E6 (200×140 mm)
★ A630 701 / *CHF 1.25*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A630 640 / ⊙ A630 650 / *CHF 14.40*

Special cover C5

⊙ A630 992 / *CHF 19.90*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Meet Felix Pfäffli

Felix Pfäffli is a multidisciplinary graphic designer, artist and teacher. Born in Lucerne in 1986, Felix grew up in a creative household: his father was also a graphic designer and artist, and his mother a philosopher. As a teenager, he was already designing posters for local cultural and musical events. After completing his studies at HSLU, he founded Studio Feixen in 2009, a design studio whose work combines tradition with innovation, colour, technique and humour. Since then, he has won numerous international awards and worked for world-famous brands such as Nike, Apple and Chanel, and in 2013 became the youngest member of the Alliance Graphique Internationale (AGI).

Photos: Simon Almers

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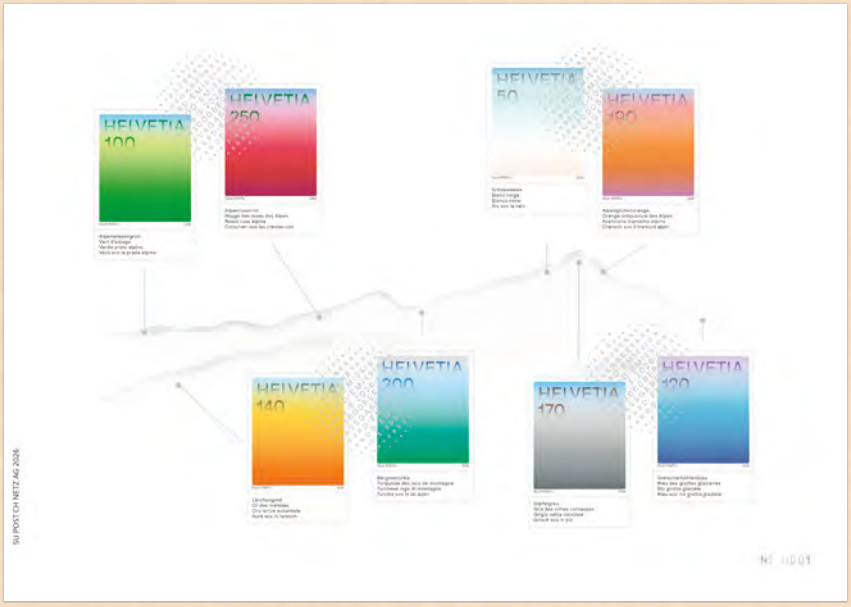

Special cover C5

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Validity Unlimited from 5.3.2026

Printing Offset, 4-colour;
Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Formats Stamps: 33×41.25 mm
Sheet: 82×271 mm (open),
82×135.5 mm (folded)
5 rows of 2 stamps

Paper White stamp paper,
with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm²

Perforation Serpentine cut

Design Felix Pfäffli, Lucerne

Schneeweiss
Blanc neige
Bianco neve
Alv sco la naiv

Alpenwiesengrün
Vert d'alpage
Verde prato alpino
Verd sco la prada alpina

Gletscherhöhlenblau
Bleu des grottes glaciaires
Blu grotta glaciale
Blau sco ina grotta glaziala

Lärchengold
Or des mélèzes
Oro larice autunnale
Aurà sco in laresch

Gipfelgrau
Gris des cimes rocheuses
Grigio vetta rocciosa
Grisch sco in piz

Alpenglühenorange
Orange crépuscule des Alpes
Arancione tramonto alpino
Oransch sco il tramunt alpin

Bergseetürkis
Turquoise des lacs de montagne
Turchese lago di montagna
Turchis sco in lai alpin

Alpenrosenrot
Rouge des roses des Alpes
Rosso rosa alpina
Cotschen sco las crestas-cot

Switzerland catches the hockey bug

It's almost time: from 15 to 31 May 2026, Switzerland will play host to the 2026 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship. Once again, a stamp is being released to mark this sporting event.

Thrills on the ice

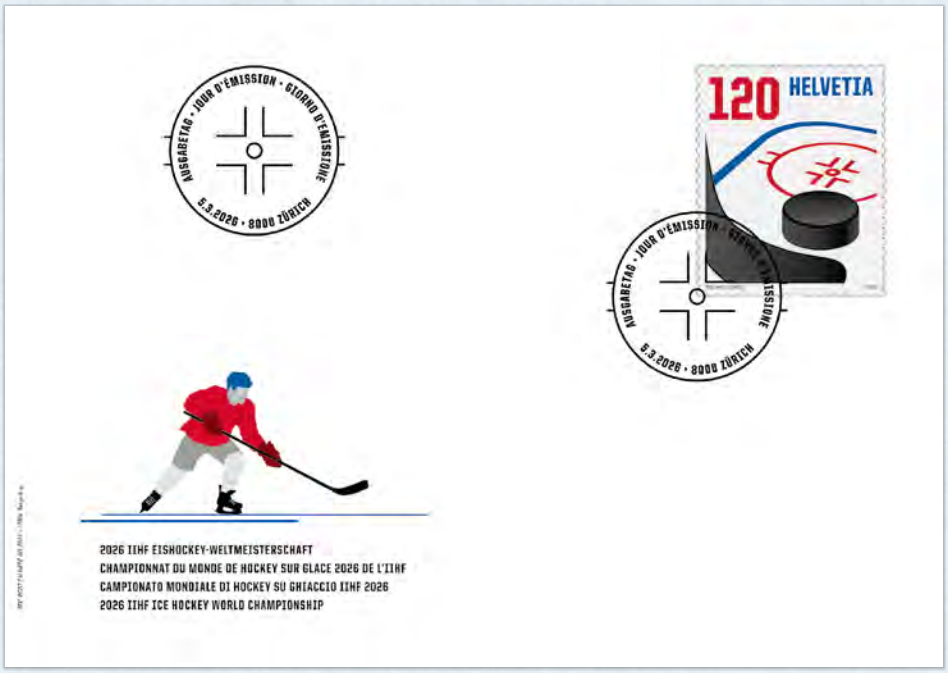
Next May, the 2026 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship will kick off in Switzerland. The crunching of the blades, passes every second, pucks travelling at 170 kilometres per hour: ice hockey is fast, precise and tough. This is a sport that combines tactics, technique and team spirit like no other – little wonder it's one of Switzerland's most popular winter sports. For decades, ice hockey has thrilled generations of fans, whether at large arenas, in small village halls or on frozen lakes. Switzerland is also one of the oldest ice hockey nations in the world: it was a founding member of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) in 1908.

Switzerland has played host to the IIHF World Championship several times, helping to make ice hockey popular in the country. The first Swiss tournament was held in St Moritz in 1928, followed by the 1935 edition in Basel and Davos, where audiences had to warm their hands on mugs of tea during temperatures of –15 degrees Celsius. Further tournaments were held in Basel and Zurich in 1953 and Geneva and Lausanne in 1961. The Championship returned to Basel and Zurich in 1998.

History made on the ice

Switzerland's national men's team enjoys enormous attention. One reason for the sport's popularity is the success of the Swiss ice hockey team, which has proven time and again in recent years that it can hold its own against the best in the world. Silver medals at ice hockey world championships, spectacular victories against top teams and a new generation of talented players have given the sport a boost in Switzerland. In 2025, the men's team won silver for the fourth time in 12 years.

Listen now at swisspost.ch/podcast-focus-on-stamps


120 HELVETIA
AUSGABETAG · JOUR D'ÉMISSION · GIORNO D'EMISSIONE
5.3.2026 · 8000 ZÜRICH
2026 IIHF EISHOCKEY-WELTMEISTERSCHAFT
CHAMPIONNAT DU MONDE DE HOCKEY SUR GLACE 2026 DE L'IIHF
CAMPIONATO MONDIALE DI HOCKEY SU GHIACCIO IIHF 2026
2026 IIHF ICE HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Single stamp on first-day cover C6

Switzerland's results

Five silver medals
– 1935 in Davos
– 2013 in Sweden and Finland
– 2018 in Denmark
– 2024 in Czechia
– 2025 in Sweden and Denmark

Eight bronze medals
1928, 1930, 1937, 1939, 1948, 1950, 1951, 1953

Time for a gold?
Only gold is missing from the team's collection. The 2025 final against the United States in Stockholm was particularly tough, as the Swiss team had felt their chances of winning were good. That makes them all the more motivated to win the title at home this year. And the Swiss fans are fully behind their team – whichever colour they win.

Designed on transparent tracing paper
Due to its special manufacturing method, this self-adhesive stamp should be removed carefully from its sheet. The backing paper can then be peeled from the reverse side.

Sheet of 16 stamps

Special cover with six stamps dedicated to the Ice Hockey World Championship in Switzerland.

Special cover with stamps dedicated to the Ice Hockey World Championship

All tournaments held in Switzerland have been honoured with a special stamp. The design of each stamp is a fascinating reflection of the era in which it was created.

1961: The first ice hockey stamp was issued for the home event in Geneva and Lausanne in 1961. The typography was typical of its time: minimalist, clear and bold, with strong colours and a sans serif typeface.

1990: The Ice Hockey World Championship was held in Bern and Fribourg – but Switzerland didn't take part. The design is typical of the 1990s and reminiscent of political posters and images from socialist countries: full of motion and dynamism, and anything but static.

2009: Despite a lively atmosphere in Bern and Kloten, the national team bowed out in the preliminary round. Russia became world champions. The stamp's design is striking and photorealistic, with everything reduced to one element and a font reminiscent of that found on old transport crates.

2020: Players charge forward in full gear, while a star player shoots for the goal. Everything planned well in advance – and then cancelled. Two stamps for an event that never took place. Despite this, the stamps still remained on sale.

2026: The stamp was printed on transparent tracing paper that mimics the texture, structure and colour of the ice rink.

Products

Stamps (self-adhesive)

Sheet of 16 stamps
★ A636 111 / ⊙ A636 511 / *CHF 19.20*

Single stamp
★ A636 150 / ⊙ A636 550 / *CHF 1.20*

Block of four
★ A636 160 / ⊙ A636 560 / *CHF 4.80*

Covers

Single stamp on first-day cover C6
⊙ A636 580 / *CHF 2.35*

Block of four on first-day cover C6
⊙ A636 630 / *CHF 5.95*

Unstamped cover C6
★ A636 700 / *CHF 1.15*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A636 640 / ⊙ A636 650 / *CHF 2.30*

Special cover

6 stamps (face value CHF 5.15) on black special cover C5, cancelled in gold
⊙ A636 990 / *CHF 13.90*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

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to 30.4.2027 or while stocks last

Validity Unlimited from 5.3.2026

Printing Offset , 4-colour;
Cartor Security Printers,
Meaucé-La Loupe, France

Formats Stamp: 32.5×40 mm
Sheet: 162×190 mm
4 rows of 4 stamps

Paper Transparent stamp paper, with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm²

Perforation 13¼:13

Design Roland Bürge, Küssnacht am Rigi

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Solidarity for hedgehogs – and for sustainability

The hedgehog is animal of the year 2026 – and has been given its own stamp to celebrate. For Swiss Post, this is more than just a design: the small stamp is raising awareness of endangered animals while also tying in with the company's extensive sustainability measures.

Text: Hanno Lietz; René Moor / Blueheart AG Photos: iStockphoto, zvg

Few wild animals are as familiar and yet as endangered as the hedgehog. Pro Natura is raising awareness of this fact through its choice of animal of the year. Swiss Post collaborates regularly with Pro Natura on a range of projects, including special campaigns and themed stamps that draw attention to endangered species. Designs of this kind show how philately can offer a window to nature: when franking their mail, thousands of people suddenly see an animal at risk of disappearing from our landscape. This shines a light on environmental issues that would otherwise remain hidden.

A stamp alone can't save the hedgehog. But it can raise awareness of sustainability. Swiss Post combines this type of symbolic gesture with concrete measures that go far beyond individual stamp designs, fulfilling its responsibility towards the climate and society.

This Focus article is based on the theme of the current "Animal of the year 2026" stamp issue. You can find out more about the special stamp on pages 14–16.

"The biodiversity crisis is a reality"

Three questions for Rico Kessler, manager of Pro Natura's "Animal of the year".

Rico Kessler, why is the hedgehog particularly suitable for highlighting habitat loss in Switzerland?
Everyone knows and likes the hedgehog. But how many people know that hedgehogs rely on diverse, insect-rich gardens, parks and green spaces for their survival in Switzerland? Pro Natura wants to spread this information, along with specific tips on what we can all do to help hedgehogs.

What does having the support of Swiss Post's stamp mean for Pro Natura in concrete terms?
Swiss Post is quite literally carrying our message to the furthest corners of Switzerland, which is fantastic. Digital communication is shaping our everyday lives now. That's precisely why a card with an "Animal of the year" stamp is something special that really stands out.

Which species or topics would you like to see more public awareness of?
People don't seem to be very aware of the decline in natural diversity all around us. Sadly, the biodiversity crisis is a scientifically proven reality. We want to demonstrate even more clearly how we as a society can reverse this trend.

Sustainability as part of Swiss Post's strategy

Swiss Post's commitment to the climate isn't limited to individual stamps. The company aims to contribute to sustainable development in Switzerland through a holistic strategy that encompasses business, society, employees and the environment.

A range of measures to reach climate and energy targets
The company has set ambitious goals for climate and energy: it plans to be carbon neutral in its in-house operations from 2030 and to reach net zero throughout its entire value chain from 2040. To achieve this, it is reducing its CO_2 emissions in transport. Deliveries are already being made with electric vehicles in cities such as Zurich and Bern, and over 170 Postbuses with electric drive systems are now in use. Swiss Post is also making progress with its buildings: in 2024, it installed new photovoltaic systems with an additional capacity of 1.6 megawatt-peak. The Villmergen logistics center was the first Swiss logistics building to be awarded the sustainable building DGNB Switzerland label. Swiss Post covers 100 percent of its total electricity requirements from renewable energy sources from Switzerland. In addition, it has developed a portfolio of measures and projects to remove CO_2 from the atmosphere and store it over the long term.

Added value for the economy and society
Swiss Post's services connect people and businesses throughout Switzerland, in urban and rural areas and across all language regions. Its 5,003 access points ensure that services are highly accessible. Swiss Post finances the universal service from its own resources and without taxpayers' money. As an attractive employer, it offers progressive employment conditions and career prospects in a variety of fields. It is Switzerland's third-largest training provider, demonstrating its exceptional commitment to basic vocational training.

The hedgehog, animal of the year 2026

Pro Natura has selected the European hedgehog as animal of the year in 2026. This prickly beast is always a welcome guest in our gardens and green spaces – but it needs protection.

At the moment, they're buried deep under piles of leaves. Whether they're actually sleeping, we don't know. But as soon as temperatures rise again, hedgehogs will come out of their hibernation and start roaming through our gardens, parks and meadows again. Few other wild animals are as beloved as the hedgehog, despite – or maybe even because of – its spines. To ensure that it can carry on living in our neighbourhoods, it needs suitable hiding places. In many parts of the countryside, these have disappeared, which is why hedgehogs are increasingly living in built-up areas.

An old acquaintance

Hedgehogs have existed for over 15 million years, long before humans were walking the earth. They have survived ice ages and coexisted with mammoths. Following the end of the last cold period around 20,000 years ago, hedgehogs returned to Switzerland from southern Europe. The variety found in this country is known by the zoological name of "European hedgehog" (Erinaceus europaeus).

Prickly but still cute

The hedgehog's most distinctive feature is its 5,000 to 7,000 spines, stiff hairs that turn it into an almost impenetrable ball in the face of danger. Newborns are initially blind and deaf, but they have around 100 white spines that emerge shortly after their birth. At two weeks old, they open their eyes and ears, and after around six weeks, they become independent and have to gain weight in order to survive their first winter.

Potentially endangered

As you might have guessed, the hedgehog's name comes from its love of hedgerows and thick vegetation. But many of its natural refuges have now disappeared from the countryside: hedges, copses and species-rich meadows have given way to uniform agricultural spaces. In urban areas, meanwhile, hedgehogs face obstacles such as sealed surfaces, gravel gardens, fences with no gaps to pass through and road traffic. Thousands of hedgehogs fall victim to cars or mowers every year. No wonder, then, that they're at risk: since 2022, they have been classified as potentially endangered in Switzerland.

A useful cohabitant

To help hedgehogs, we should make sure gardens, parks and green spaces aren't too sterile. They will reward us twice over for our efforts – firstly, as useful cohabitants who eat snails and insects night after night, helping to maintain ecological balance in our gardens, and secondly, as a symbol of living, species-rich neighbourhoods. By protecting them, we will also be protecting countless other animals, from ground beetles to butterflies. And we'll still have the pleasure of encountering a hedgehog plodding across the grass at dusk.

Listen now at swisspost.ch/podcast-focus-on-stamps

Prize draw

Enter by 31 March 2026, and with a bit of luck, you could win some unforgettable days in the Aletsch region! Together with Pro Natura, we're giving away 3 × 2 nights of half board for two people at Villa Cassel, worth a total of 1,400 francs.

swisspost.ch/animal-of-the-year-2026

What you can do to help hedgehogs

- Piles of leaves, bushes and deadwood make perfect hiding places.
- Fist-sized openings in fences enable hedgehogs to wander between gardens.
- Shallow bowls of fresh water are helpful. But never give hedgehogs milk – it makes them ill.
- Avoid pesticides – they kill insects, which are hedgehogs' main source of food.
- Drive carefully – a lot of hedgehogs try to walk across roads at dusk.
- Only feed them in emergencies, e.g. if you see a weakened youngster in autumn. Give them cat food, not dairy products.

AUSGABETAG – JOUR D'ÉMISSION – GIORNO D'EMISSIONE
5.3.2026 • 4000 BASEL
120
HELVETIA
Tier des Jahres 2026 Braunbrustigel
Animal de l'année 2026 Hérisson d'Europe
Animale dell'anno 2026 Riccio europeo

Single stamp on first-day cover C6

"Since 1998, Pro Natura has been selecting an animal of the year to promote love of nature and raise awareness of nature conservation. At Swiss Post, we regard these environmental efforts as invaluable and are supporting them with a stamp."

Isabelle Bühler, Stamps & Philately Product Manager at Swiss Post

Sheetlet of 10 stamps

Special stamp **Animal of the year 2026 – European hedgehog**

Tier des Jahres 2026 Braunbrustigel
Animal de l'année 2026 Hérisson d'Europe
Animale dell'anno 2026 Riccio europeo
Animal of the year 2026 European hedgehog
Zahlen und Fakten zum Igel
Curiosità sul riccio
Hedgehog facts and figures

New: souvenir sheet with fascinating figures and interesting facts

Postal card, also available as an unstamped picture postcard

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Products

Stamps (self-adhesive)

Sheetlet of 10 stamps
★ A637 311 / ⊙ A637 351 / *CHF 12.00*

Single stamp
★ A637 150 / ⊙ A637 550 / *CHF 1.20*

Block of four
★ A637 160 / ⊙ A637 560 / *CHF 4.80*

Covers

Single stamp on first-day cover C6
⊙ A637 580 / *CHF 2.35*

Block of four on first-day cover C6
⊙ A637 630 / *CHF 5.95*

Sheetlet on first-day cover C5
⊙ A637 590 / *CHF 13.50*

Unstamped covers
C6 (162×114 mm)
★ A637 700 / *CHF 1.15*
C5 (229×162 mm)
★ A637 701 / *CHF 1.50*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A637 640 / ⊙ A637 650 / *CHF 2.30*

Postal stationery

Postal card A6, face value and CHF 1.25 for the card
★ A637 841 / ⊙ A637 846 / *CHF 2.45*

Unfranked A6 picture postcard

★ A637 911 / *CHF 1.25*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Souvenir sheet

4 stamps (face value CHF 4.80) on a double-sided souvenir sheet, 180 × 245 mm.
★ A637 641 / ⊙ A637 651 / *CHF 14.90*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

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Validity Unlimited from 5.3.2026

Printing Offset, 4-colour; Gutenberg AG, Schaan, Principality of Liechtenstein

Formats Stamp: 28×33 mm
Sheetlet: 192×115 mm
2 rows of 5 stamps

Paper White stamp paper, with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm²

Perforation 13½:13¼

Design Nadine Colin, Zurich

Attention stamp fans – collecting just became even more exciting!

Two brand-new stamp subscriptions are now available, offering the perfect addition to your collection. You're guaranteed never to miss out again!

Helvetia+ subscription

Subscribe now!

For those who don't want to miss a thing: this subscription includes all stamps issued outside the official programme* – cancelled or mint, the choice is yours. With each delivery, you'll receive a sheet of the relevant stamps. Previous examples include "Paddington", "Garfield" and the "J. R. R. Tolkien 1892–1973" set.

What is Helvetia Plus?
Swiss Post frequently issues stamps on special themes that are not included in the regular programme. These are dedicated to current trends, new films or exciting events. In the future, these stamps will be issued under the name **"Helvetia Plus"** – identified on the stamps by the lettering "Helvetia+". The Helvetia Plus series kicks off with two stamps dedicated to the Lunar New Year, as featured on pages 24–25.

Special sheet subscription

A must for lovers of exclusive designs: this subscription includes all special sheets, whether inside or outside the programme. Cancelled or mint, the choice is yours. Popular special sheets from past issues include "Seasonal flowers", "Garfield" and "Giants of the Ice Age".

For more information, visit swisspost.ch/stamp-subscriptions or get in touch with our Contact Center on +41 848 66 55 44.

* Please note that Swiss Crypto Stamps, company and voucher stamps and donation stamps are still not included in our subscriptions. Subject to change.

Olympics up close

The 2026 Winter Olympics are being held right on our doorstep, in Milan and Cortina, Italy. The event is sure to be full of excitement, emotions and sporting highlights, and our new stamp pays tribute to these moments.

From 6 to 22 February 2026, the eyes of the sporting world will be on Italy: around 2,900 athletes from more than 90 countries will compete for Olympic medals. Around 190 athletes will participate for Switzerland – and for the first time, we'll be represented in ski mountaineering. When the world's best athletes are on the starting line, one person will be cheering them on from the stands: three-time Olympic champion Vreni Schneider. She explains why Italy has always been special to her, what memories she has of her Olympic career and why the person behind the athlete has always been more important to her than any medal.

The 2026 Winter Olympics are being held right on our doorstep in Italy. What makes the Olympics so special to you?

The Olympics were always a step up from the World Cup or World Championships for me. There's just something magical about those five rings. It's not about having more competitors, it's about the psychological aspect and the feeling of being part of something big. I remember hanging a Rivella poster featuring athletes above my bed as a child and being desperate to be on there myself one day. That dream spurred me on. At the same time, I always say that medals are important, but attitude, passion and showing respect for others are much more important to me.

What does it mean for Swiss athletes that the Games are so close to home this time?

I think the proximity to Switzerland will give the athletes extra momentum. That's how it was for me, anyway. Shorter journeys, a familiar environment – that's a major advantage, especially for their mental preparation.

Your first giant slalom victory in Santa Caterina in 1984 was a special moment. What's your personal connection to Italy?

Italy was always very special to me. I liked the pistes there and enjoyed the delicious food – all the different varieties of pasta! My first giant slalom victory in 1984 and my last World Cup win in 1995 were in Italy. I also appreciated the atmosphere: it's not far from home, but full of passion. Both of my fan clubs followed me to Italy, so it felt almost like a home race.

Vreni Schneider on the Olympics, Italy and the power of respect in sport.

The stamp design highlights moments full of focus, speed, pressure and adrenaline. Which of these elements do you see as an inextricable part of the Olympics?

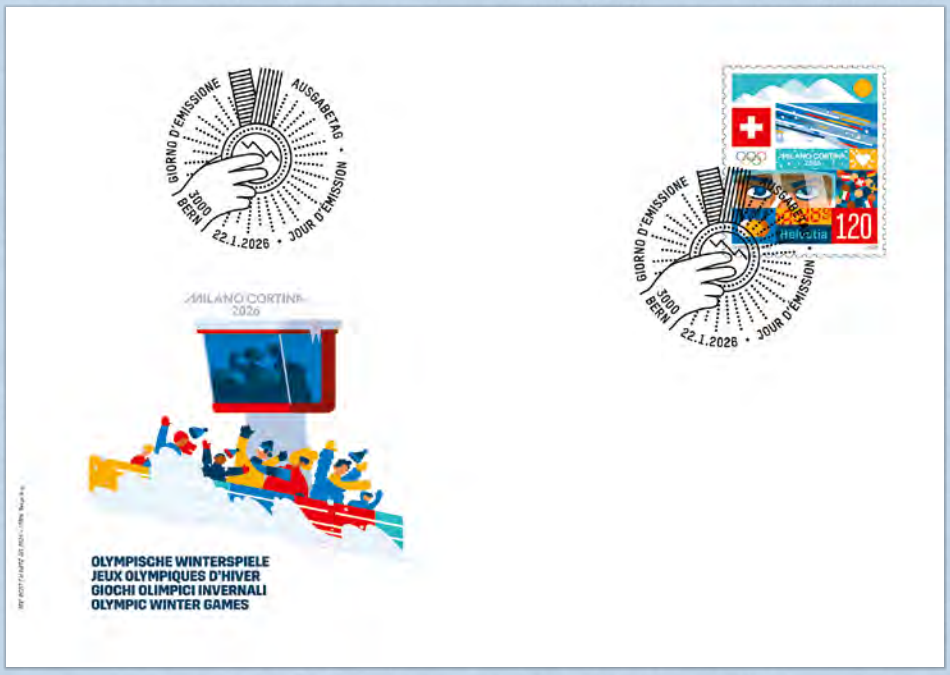
I agree that the Olympics are massive, and you have to be able to handle all that. I really admire today's athletes, particularly how they deal with criticism and pressure. But I'm also impressed by the way the coaches handle their athletes. Their support and respect is the recipe for success and hugely important. I received the same support for all my successes. Another thing is that it was crucial for me to live as close as possible to the slopes during the Winter Olympics. I felt that was where I could best prepare for my races.

If you could compete at the Olympics in 2026, which discipline would you choose?

Oh, wow... (thinks). Definitely not my main event of slalom anymore – it's got far too many gates for me now (laughs). My knees wouldn't be able to cope these days. It's better if I stick to being a spectator – which I enjoy a great deal. I'm particularly impressed by the way athletes handle pressure, keep on learning, get right back on their feet after major losses and talk about their experiences. All of that shows real strength. For me, it's not just the success on the slopes that counts, but the person behind it.

Olympische Winterspiele Milano Cortina 2026
Jeux Olympiques d'hiver Milano Cortina 2026
Giochi Olimpici Invernali Milano Cortina 2026
Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026
120

Maximum card, also available as an unstamped picture postcard.



Single stamp on first-day cover C6

"The stamp is like a mini-comic, with each panel telling a little story. Pressure, focus, speed and adrenaline are all depicted, alongside atmospheric details such as the weather, the fans and the surroundings. The most challenging aspect was following all the guidelines while still creating a coherent design."

Christoph Frei, designer

Sheetlet of 10 stamps

Intermediate issue – available from 22 January 2026

The "Winter Olympics Milano Cortina 2026" special stamp and additional products are available for delivery immediately. Please note that orders also containing other products from this issue cannot be sent until 26 February 2026. Our subscribers will receive their deliveries from 26 February 2026. If you wish to receive the "Winter Olympics Milano Cortina 2026" products earlier, they must be ordered separately. A processing fee of 9 francs will be charged for orders under 15 francs.

Photo: Keystone, zvg

Products

Stamps (self-adhesive)

Sheetlet of 10 stamps
★ A631 311 / ⊙ A631 351 / *CHF 12.00*

Single stamp
★ A631 150 / ⊙ A631 550 / *CHF 1.20*

Block of four
★ A631 160 / ⊙ A631 560 / *CHF 4.80*

Covers

Single stamp on first-day cover C6
⊙ A631 580 / *CHF 2.35*

Block of four on first-day cover C6
⊙ A631 630 / *CHF 5.95*

Sheetlet on first-day cover C5
⊙ A631 590 / *CHF 13.50*

Unstamped covers
C6 (162×114 mm)
★ A631 700 / *CHF 1.15*
C5 (229×162 mm)
★ A631 701 / *CHF 1.50*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A631 640 / ⊙ A631 650 / *CHF 2.30*

Maximum card A6

Face value and CHF 1.25 for the card
⊙ A631 851 / *CHF 2.45*

Unfranked A6 picture postcard

★ A631 911 / *CHF 1.25*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Technical information

Sales
Philately: from 22.1.2026 to 30.4.2027 or while stocks last
Branches: from 22.1.2026 to 30.4.2027 or while stocks last

Validity Unlimited from 22.1.2026

Printing Offset, 4-colour; Gutenberg AG, Schaan, Principality of Liechtenstein

Formats Stamp: 28×33 mm
Sheetlet: 192×115 mm
2 rows of 5 stamps

Paper White stamp paper, with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm²

Perforation 13½:13¼

Design Christoph Frei, Bern

Set on first-day cover C6

Discover a world of patterns

The "Natural patterns" series is growing: the "Vine leaf" and "Mushrooms" designs invite you to explore the hidden beauty of nature found in their patterns.

In nature, patterns can be found everywhere we turn – sometimes they're obvious, sometimes hidden. We can see them in the spiral of sunflower seeds or the lattice of an ice crystal on a window. Even raindrops, which form concentric circles when falling into water, or the fine grain of wood are part of this subtle aesthetic. Many of these shapes are so familiar that we hardly notice them, while others only become apparent when we take a closer look.

Small wonders in detail

The new "Vine leaf" and "Mushrooms" designs continue the "Natural patterns" series' journey of discovery into the world of intricate structures. In the vine leaf, the veins run across the surface like filigree, branching out into a network reminiscent of an elaborate blueprint. The mushrooms also reveal a fascinating world full of detail: the delicate gills on the undersides of their caps encourage us to take a closer look at patterns and structures. Their beauty is only unveiled when we consciously take a moment to pause and admire these small wonders.

A fresh look at familiar sights

Engaging with patterns will help you recognize them everywhere: not just in the designs on our definitive stamps, but also in everyday things, such as the shimmering mosaic of a butterfly's wing, the crystalline shapes of ice and the intricate lines of tree bark. This kind of beauty was showcased on the first stamps in the series. Now the "Vine leaf" and "Mushrooms" designs are again opening our eyes to this hidden aesthetic and showing us how even the smallest structures can transform into ornate patterns. A reminder for us to take a fresh look at familiar sights and explore entire worlds in detail.

Swiss stamps to feature data matrix codes for the first time

"Vine leaf" and "Mushrooms" are the first Swiss stamps with data matrix codes – a technological innovation. They may initially seem insignificant, but they will have a big impact in practice.
Important: The stamps are only valid for franking if they have a data matrix code.

Stefan Bühler, Head of Stamps & Philately, explains:

"The newly introduced dynamic data matrix code is a Swiss Post market test that will run from March to June 2026. Afterwards, a survey will be held to record the responses, and the results will be analysed.

The test will examine both the technological functionality and the interaction between innovation and design. The code will significantly improve recognition at processing facilities, increase protection against forgery and prevent people from abusing the system by using the same stamp multiple times. It will also allow for maximum freedom in design: as long as the code is integrated, artists will be free to choose the stamp's shape and colour.

Switzerland's market test follows in the footsteps of countries such as Germany, Finland, the UK and France, and will examine the best way to combine modern technology with stamp art."

Sheet of 50 stamps each

Products

Stamps (self-adhesive)

Sheet of 50 stamps
1.00 Vine leaf
★ A635 361 / ⊙ A635 381 / *CHF 50.00*
1.20 Mushrooms
★ A635 362 / ⊙ A635 382 / *CHF 60.00*

Set
★ A635 150 / ⊙ A635 550 / *CHF 2.20*

Set of blocks of four
★ A635 160 / ⊙ A635 560 / *CHF 8.80*

Covers

Set on first-day cover C6
⊙ A635 580 / *CHF 3.35*

Single stamp on first-day cover C6 (2 covers)
⊙ A635 600 / *CHF 4.50*

Block of four on first-day cover C6
⊙ A635 630 / *CHF 13.40*

Unstamped cover C6
★ A635 700 / *CHF 1.15*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A635 640 / ⊙ A635 650 / *CHF 3.30*

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Technical information

Sales
Philately: from 26.2.2026 until further notice
Branches: from 5.3.2026 until further notice

Validity Unlimited from 5.3.2026

Printing Offset, 4-colour; Cartor Security Printers, Meaucé-La Loupe, France

Formats Stamps: 33×40 mm
Sheet: 186.6×533 mm (open), 186.6×134 mm (folded)
10 rows of 5 stamps

Paper White stamp paper, with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm²

Perforation Serpentine cut

Design Thomas Ruf, Muttenz (face value CHF 1.20), Martin Stünzi, Oberdürnten (face value CHF 1.00)
Graphic editing: Prolith AG, Bern

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

The birthday of an icon

In honour of Alberto Giacometti's 125th birthday, his most famous work is featuring on a Swiss stamp.

Walking Man I is probably the Swiss painter and sculptor's most famous work, and it's still moving us all today. When Alberto Giacometti was born on 10 October 1901, nobody could have guessed that his art would one day appear on a Swiss stamp.

Bregaglia, Paris, Bregaglia
Alberto Giacometti was raised in Stampa, Bregaglia, where his father Giovanni ran a studio and was renowned throughout Switzerland as a painter. After attending the École des Beaux-Arts in Geneva, he moved to Paris in 1922, where he studied under Emile-Antoine Bourdelle and at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière, immersing himself in the city's vibrant avant-garde scene. Despite moving away, he maintained close ties to his home valley of Bregaglia.

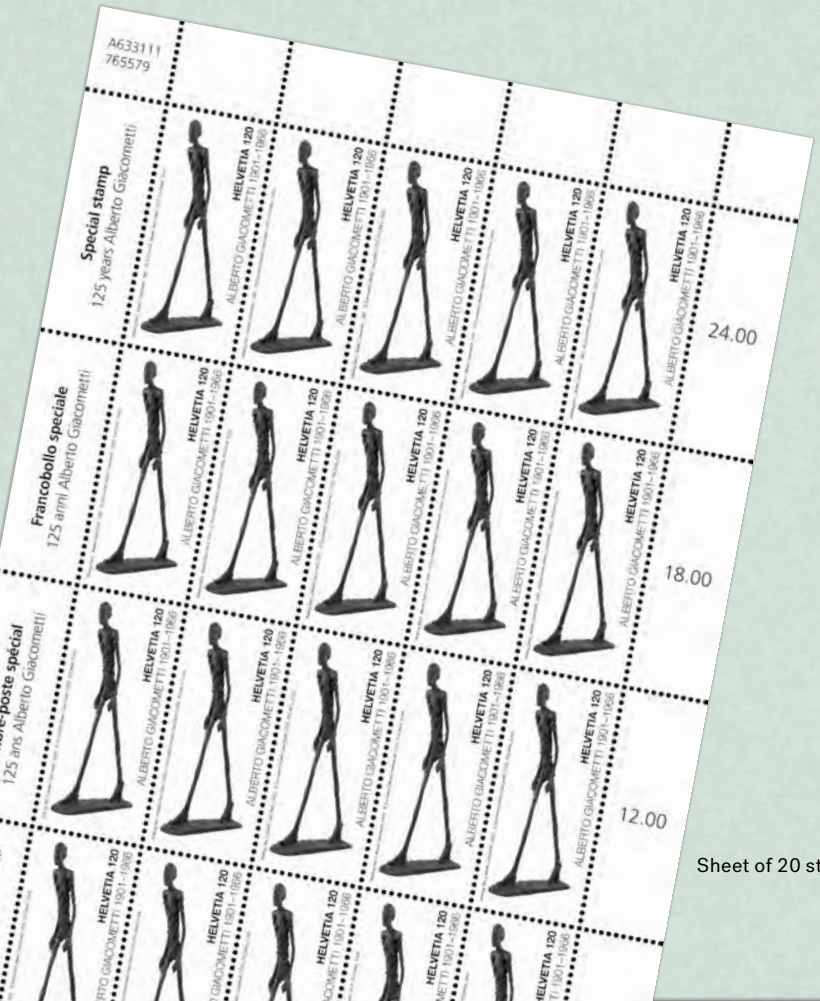
Elongated figures
After dabbling in the world of Surrealism, Giacometti returned to sculptures in the 1930s, observing, scrapping ideas he wasn't happy with and constantly remodelling. His figures shrank to a height of just four centimetres. Following the Second World War, he developed his unmistakable style: slender, elongated figures with an air of fragility. They were perfect for their time, reflecting the loneliness and vulnerability of the modern human – and they still look astonishing today.

From artist to icon
From the 1950s onwards, Giacometti was celebrated internationally, and his works became icons of the existentialist style that dominated post-war art. He died in Chur Cantonal Hospital on 11 January 1966, after suffering from chronic bronchitis that damaged his heart. Friends, art dealers and museum directors from all over the world travelled to Bregaglia for his burial.

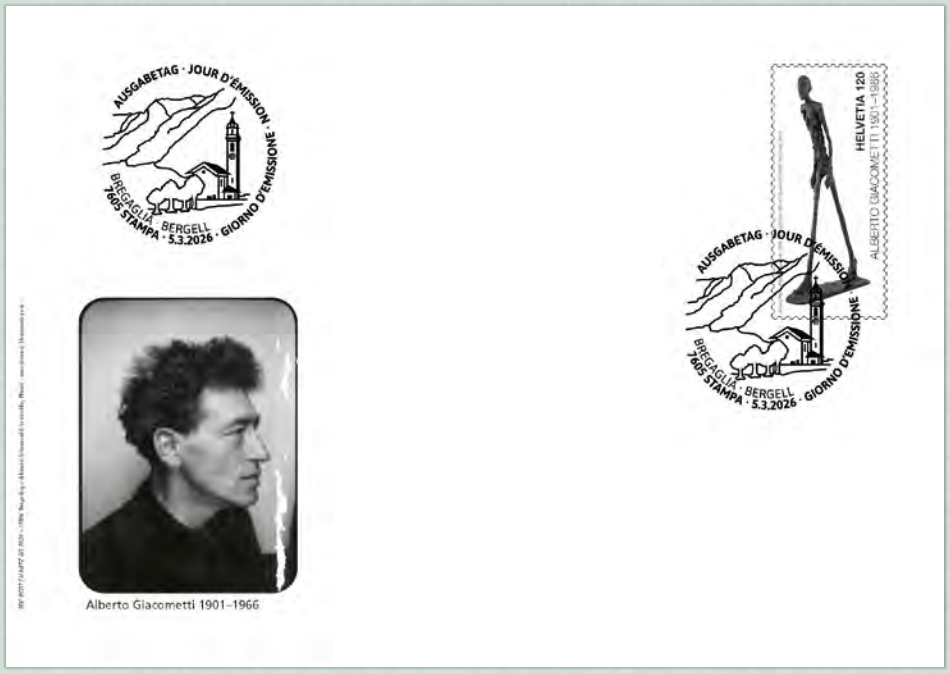
Three personal facts about the artist:
- Giacometti set high standards for his work throughout his life. During his self-critical phases, he destroyed many of his own works that he considered "unfinished".
- He was a heavy smoker and used cigarette packets for his sketches.
- Along with many other artists and intellectuals, he was friends with Pablo Picasso, but their friendship broke down due to artistic differences.

Slender, but significant
Narrow, slight, and yet full of meaning: the life-size iconic bronze figure Walking Man I from 1960 is one of his most famous works – and one of the milestones of 20th-century Swiss art. Having already graced a Swiss 100-franc note, it is now taking pride of place on a stamp to celebrate Alberto Giacometti's 125th birthday. The stamp was developed in close collaboration with curator Carolin A. Geist, who created the anniversary exhibition "125 Jahre Alberto Giacometti: die Geister der Materie".

Listen now at swisspost.ch/podcast-focus-on-stamps



Sheet of 20 stamps



Single stamp on first-day cover C6

"The stamp's special slender format is striking and is based on the shape of Giacometti's typical figures."

Isabelle Bühler, Stamps & Philately Product Manager at Swiss Post

125 Jahre Alberto Giacometti: die Geister der Materie

Curator Carolin A. Geist has taken Alberto Giacometti's 125th birthday as an opportunity to plan a volume of essays, a children's book and an anniversary exhibition – which will be held as near as possible to Stampa, in order to "bring Alberto home". A retrospective of original works will be displayed in dialogue with contemporary artists. The exhibition will focus on the materiality of his works and on Bregaglia: a narrow, rugged valley that produced Alberto, a world-renowned sculptor and one of Switzerland's most important artists. For Giacometti, Bregaglia was the subject of his work, his place of inspiration and the source of his creativity.

More information (in German): alberto-giacometti.ch

Products

Stamps

Sheet of 20 stamps
★ A633 111 / ⊙ A633 511 / *CHF 24.00*

Single stamp
★ A633 150 / ⊙ A633 550 / *CHF 1.20*

Block of four
★ A633 160 / ⊙ A633 560 / *CHF 4.80*

Covers

Single stamp on first-day cover C6
⊙ A633 580 / *CHF 2.35*

Block of four on first-day cover C6
⊙ A633 630 / *CHF 5.95*

Unstamped cover C6
★ A633 700 / *CHF 1.15*

Folder/collection sheet A5

★ A633 640 / ⊙ A633 650 / *CHF 2.30*

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Technical information

Sales
Philately: from 26.2.2026 to 30.4.2027 or while stocks last
Branches: from 5.3.2025 to 30.4.2027 or while stocks last

Validity Unlimited from 5.3.2026

Printing Offset, 4-colour; Cartor Security Printers, Meaucé-La Loupe, France

Formats Stamp: 20×44 mm
Sheet: 130×206 mm
4 rows of 5 stamps

Paper White stamp paper, with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation 13½:13½

Design © Succession Alberto Giacometti / 2026, ProLitteris, Zurich

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Intermediate issue – available from 22 January 2026

The "Lunar New Year 2026" special stamps and additional products are available for delivery immediately. Please note that orders also containing other products from this issue cannot be sent until 26 February 2026. Our subscribers will receive their deliveries from 26 February 2026. If you wish to receive the "Lunar New Year 2026" products earlier, they must be ordered separately. A processing fee of 9 francs will be charged for orders under 15 francs.

Special cover

Swiss Post celebrates the new beginnings

Bright lanterns, festive sounds and luminous colours: Lunar New Year is a time for celebrating new beginnings. Swiss Post wants to raise awareness of the festival in Switzerland and is dedicating two stamps to the occasion.

On 17 February 2026, millions of people around the world will celebrate Lunar New Year, which marks the beginning of the new year in many Asian countries, most famously China. As the date is based on the lunar calendar, New Year falls on a different day each year, always between the end of January and mid-February. It also marks the beginning of a new year in the Chinese zodiac, which assigns each year to an animal. 2026 is the Year of the Horse, which represents energy, vitality and dynamism in Chinese astrology.

These qualities are reflected in the design of the stamps. At first glance, the colourful image catches the eye, but if you look more closely, you'll discover small details: patterns inspired by Chinese and Swiss folk art, as well as flower motifs that connect the two cultures. The special sheet itself can even be hung up as a decoration, like a small lantern.

A piece of culture for you to collect

Swiss Post's special stamps celebrate the Lunar New Year and offer collectors, travellers and anyone else who's curious a piece of cultural diversity of their very own. The miniature artworks combine traditional symbolism with modern design and shine a spotlight on the Year of the Horse in Switzerland.

The "Lunar New Year 2026" stamps are not part of the official stamp issuing programme. However, they are included in the new Helvetia+ subscription. Read more on page 17.

Order subscription now: swisspost.ch/stamp-subscriptions

A design with a personal touch

"I was inspired by the elegance of the horse, the power of the fire element and the diverse ornamentation of Chinese art. I also incorporated folk art patterns to bring the two cultures together. For me, this stamp is a small celebration on paper."

Catherine Pearson, designer

Lunar Horse silver
1 oz PP domed relief – RAM 2026
Get your exclusive coin dedicated to the Year of the Fire Horse.

post.philoro.ch/en/numismatics

Special sheet of 6 stamps

Photo: Jérémie Crausaz

Products

Stamps (self-adhesive)

Sheet of 10 stamps
1.20 The Year of the Horse
★ A634 361 / ⊙ A634 381 / *CHF 12.00*
2.50 Portrait
★ A634 362 / ⊙ A634 382 / *CHF 25.00*
The stamps are not part of the official stamp issuing programme.

Covers

Unstamped cover C6
★ A634 700 / *CHF 1.15*

Special sheet of 6 stamps

"Lunar New Year 2026" special sheet with 3 × The Year of the Horse at CHF 1.20 and 3 × Portrait at CHF 2.50
★ A634 990 / ⊙ A634 991 / *CHF 11.10*
This product is supplied with the "Special sheet" subscription and is not included in other subscriptions.

Special cover

2 stamps (face value CHF 3.70) on red special cover C5, cancelled in gold
⊙ A588 992 / *CHF 4.85*
This product is not supplied with the subscription.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Technical information

Sales
Philately: from 22.1.2026 to 31.1.2027 or while stocks last
Branches: from 22.1.2026 to 31.1.2027 or while stocks last

Validity Unlimited from 22.1.2026

Printing Offset, 6-colour; Cartor Security Printing, Meaucé-La Loupe

Formats Stamps: 32,5×40 mm
Sheet: 82×270 mm (open), 82×135 mm (folded)
5 rows of 2 stamps

Paper White stamp paper, with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm^2

Perforation Serpentine cut

Design Catherine Pearson, Lausanne

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Ski stamp made from genuine coating

Austria has a long tradition of skiing. In keeping with this history, Austrian Post released a stamp in 2020 that astonished even skiing superfans: the "Ski tips" special stamp is the first in the world to be made from genuine ski coating. Its shape and material resemble a ski – including the silvery aluminium composite plate. The graphic design was produced by David Gruber. Neon colours and original materials make this stamp a real head-turner.

"Be like a stamp. Stick to one thing until you reach your goal."

Josh Billings, American writer

Philately universe

Blog

Children of the Open Road

It was a dark chapter in the history of Pro Juventute and the PTT, and it's now being highlighted by the collection at the Museum of Communication. Over the course of almost 50 years, Yenish children were taken from their parents and families were torn apart by the "Children of the Open Road" project – which was partially financed by Pro Juventute stamps. Museum employees have researched these events and documented them in a blog post.

The full post can be found at this link:
mfk.ch/austauschen/blog/die-ptt-und-die-kinder-der-landstrasse
(in German)

Die Pro Juventute-Marke ist mehr als ein Frankierzeichen; sie ist ein Symbol, welches das Schweizervolk mit seiner Jugend verbindet. Ihr jährliches Erscheinen ist uns zum lieben Brauch geworden, nur Quelle täglicher Wohltaten für Kinder und Familien.
Le timbre Pro Juventute est plus qu'un affranchissement; il est un symbole qui unit le peuple suisse à sa jeunesse. Son émission annuelle est devenue pour nous une chère tradition, la source d'innombrables bienfaits pour les enfants et les familles.
Il francobollo Pro Juventute è qualcosa di più di un semplice valore portale; è un simbolo che unisce il popolo svizzero alla propria gioventù. La sua annuale comparsa è diventata una gradita consuetudine, fonte infinitamente provvidenziale per bambini e famiglie.
PRO JUVENTUTE 1912-62
HELVETIA
5+5

Images: Österreichische Post AG, Museum of Communication, Keystone

Readers' letters

"Mr Bühler, as an 'analogue dinosaur', I await every new 'Focus on stamps' with excitement and always look forward to the joy of seeing the new stamps.

As an avid letter-writer (by hand, naturally), I'm very grateful that this luxury is still available to us.

For that, I'd like to say a big THANK YOU to you and the entire team.

PS: The upcoming Tinguely Carnival Fountain stamp is, of course, a very special treat for my Basel soul!

Barbara Frei, Binningen

Focus on stamps editorial team:
Dear Ms Frei,
Thank you for your wonderful words! We're delighted that you enjoy reading "Focus on stamps" so much and that you're eagerly awaiting the new stamps. We found your love of the handwritten word and the analogue world very moving.
The Tinguely Carnival Fountain stamp is indeed a treat – and we're thrilled that it speaks to your Basel soul.

"Dear 'Focus on stamps', I'd just like to say a big THANK YOU! It makes me happy whenever new special stamps are released! And the joy is shared by all the people I send my letters to.

My godchild in the USA has been enjoying the year book of stamps for 30 years, and now her children do, too.

I hope it will be around for a long time to come!"

Elisabeth Pott-Bischofberger, Solothurn

Focus on stamps editorial team: Dear Ms Pott-Bischofberger,
Thank you for your kind words! We're so pleased that our special stamps have been making you all happy for so many years – and even across generations. We hope your enthusiasm continues for many more years.

Another reader from Binningen has kindly sent us several postcards. They show atmospheric images of Blatten in the Lötschental Valley during better times. The devastating avalanche of rubble and ice in May 2025 had a severe impact on the villages of Blatten and Ried. Many thanks to Carlos Zanotelli for sending the postcards to us.

And in case you're interested: The "Solidarity for Blatten" special stamp is still available at postshop.ch. All proceeds from sales go to the Swiss Red Cross.

Stamp game

We're travelling through Switzerland...

Shared experiences live on in our memories – so why not have fun discovering Switzerland with your children, grandchildren or godchildren? The stamp game also teaches children about Swiss landmarks and stamps. Simply read the questions carefully, select the right stamp – and head off on your journey of discovery!

lernmedien.post.ch/170-wir-reisen-durch-die-schweiz
(in German)

Dialogue

Readers' letters

Share your philatelic discoveries with us, or simply tell us about your reactions as you read the magazine.

stamps@swisspost.ch

Post CH Network Ltd
Swiss Post Contact Center
Stamps & Philately
Wankdorfallee 4
3030 Bern

We look forward to receiving your feedback!

Whether it's praise, criticism or suggestions, your opinion is important to us and helps us to continue developing.
Thank you for your feedback!
Scan the QR code or follow the link:
www.swisspost.ch/feedback-focus-on-stamps

Museum of Communication

...the only museum in Switzerland devoted to communication and its history. What impact does communication have on our society? A variety of interactive exhibitions explore this question.

Swiss Post is a founding partner of the museum.

mfk.ch/en

The Museum of Communication offers a diverse world for you to explore.

Experience communication

Photos and text: Museum of Communication

The Museum of Communication in Bern offers a highly entertaining excursion into the world of communication that surrounds us every day. But how exactly does it work? Visitors are immersed in the adventure of mutual dialogue in an interactive, fun-filled and unique way. All of this is made possible in part by Swiss Post's commitment.

The museum is full of things to try out and stories to discover. Why is there a burnt-out getaway car from a post office robbery? How many times do we lie every day? Why does the first Swiss computer look like a row of wall cupboards? And who will create the best stamp with their own photo on it? The Museum of Communication is the only museum in Switzerland dedicated exclusively to communication. Topics range from body language and dialogue between cultures to sharing information through old and new media – but the focus is always on people, not technology.

A hands-on museum

In addition to interactive stations, surprising objects and large video screens, real people convey the fascinating world of communication. These "communicators" are a speciality that can't be found anywhere else in Switzerland. Every day, they come up with new games, activities and experiences, bringing personal communication to the exhibition and ensuring visitors get involved – because communication is something we can all do. It's a little bit like love: no one really knows how it works, but everyone plays along anyway!

In its annual temporary exhibitions, the museum also focuses on surprising aspects of communication. In recent years, these have included our inhibitions, the potential of nothingness and the communicative joy of dancing. The latest exhibition is dedicated to the topic of crowds and shows the restricting, liberating and surprising effect of being one of many. "Massen – Foules – Crowds" opened on 12 December 2025. As you can see, it definitely won't be boring here anytime soon.

A success, thanks in part to Swiss Post

Visitors have also noticed how much this museum has to offer. Tour groups, culture enthusiasts, technology fans, families and a large number of school classes have come to discover the museum for themselves. The Museum of Communication has broken its visitor records time and again in recent years. Few Swiss museums have seen such a sharp rise in visitor numbers of late. In 2019, the museum team also received the internationally coveted Council of Europe Museum Prize for its work, only the third museum in Switzerland to be given this honour.

These successes are made possible by founding partners Swiss Post and Swisscom, which support the museum foundation and therefore finance its basic operations. A commitment to communication and their own history, as reflected in the collections. And a public service that brings joy to 140,000 visitors from all over Switzerland every year.

At the Museum of Communication, dialogue between people becomes an interactive journey of discovery.

Current exhibitions

Hilltop fires, smartphones and cyborgs
In the core exhibition, we take a closer look at communication in all its forms: after all, it has connected people since time immemorial. But why do we communicate? The exhibition explores these fundamental questions – and encourages visitors to think for themselves.

Massen – Foules – Crowds
Suddenly, a person is no longer just a solitary individual. A throng forms at a bottleneck, a sea of spectators gather to cheer on their teams at a football match. What happens when we become part of a crowd? This exhibition aims to deconstruct the negative image of crowds from different points of view. Runs until 19 July 2026.

Gezeichnet 2025
The wittiest review of the most important events and topics over the past 12 months. In this joint exhibition, 50 Swiss caricaturists and cartoonists display 250 of their most significant media drawings. Runs until 22 February 2026.

More information at mfk.ch/en

Our commitment to art
Swiss Post has been committed to promoting art in Switzerland for decades. Our art collection now comprises around 500 works and is growing every year, offering a diverse platform for artists in Switzerland. Our aim is to address and communicate issues and concerns that are of equal importance to Swiss society and Swiss Post. In this way, we encourage dialogue, participation and reflection on modern life.

You can read more about Swiss Post's commitment to art at swisspost.ch/commitment-to-art

Artfully packaged: the renowned Swiss photographer Douglas Mandry designed PostPac ART 2024. His depiction of the Rhône glacier highlights the importance of the dwindling ice mass to our ecosystem. Limited to 40,000 pieces, the work is now available only in selected Swiss Post branches. The new PostPac ART III will follow in summer 2026.

Three pillars
Collection. Public space. Interaction.

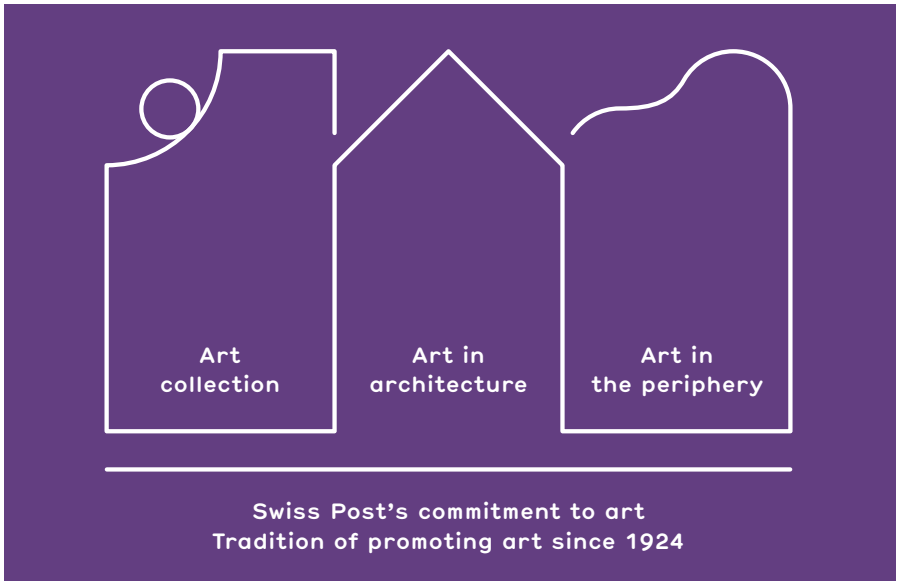
Swiss Post's commitment to art has a long history. It is based on a federal ordinance promoting and supporting the arts, which resulted in the creation of a significant art collection. As a publicly owned company, Swiss Post nurtures and expands this collection, ensuring it is also accessible to members of the public.

The commitment was reoriented in 2020 and now consists of three pillars:
1) The art collection
2) The Switzerland-wide "Art in architecture" portfolio
3) Partnership with "Art in the periphery" events.

"Art in the periphery" events bridge the gap between urban and rural areas. The website discover-art.ch showcases events outside cities with the aim of connecting people, promoting dialogue and opening up new perspectives. Through "Art in architecture", Swiss Post also creates spaces that help shape community life.

Thematically, the collection focuses on socially relevant issues such as diversity, social justice, natural resource conservation, sustainability and climate issues, engagement with our history and the influence of new technologies on our lives. The Art Committee specifically chooses works by contemporary artists with links to Switzerland and, in selected cases, will commission artwork.

Swiss Post wants to bring the collection to life: since 2020, there have been art stamps, "PostPac ART" packaging and collaborative exhibitions with museums, where Swiss Post's works are presented in dialogue with the museum's collection.


Art collection
Art in architecture
Art in the periphery
Swiss Post's commitment to art
Tradition of promoting art since 1924

Art collection

Beni Bischof, Hysterie in Rimini, 2012
Photo: Annette Boutellier

Art in architecture

Felice Varini, Trompe-l'œil, 1991:
at Swiss Post branch Genève 1 Mont-Blanc.
Photo: Ralph Feiner, Malans

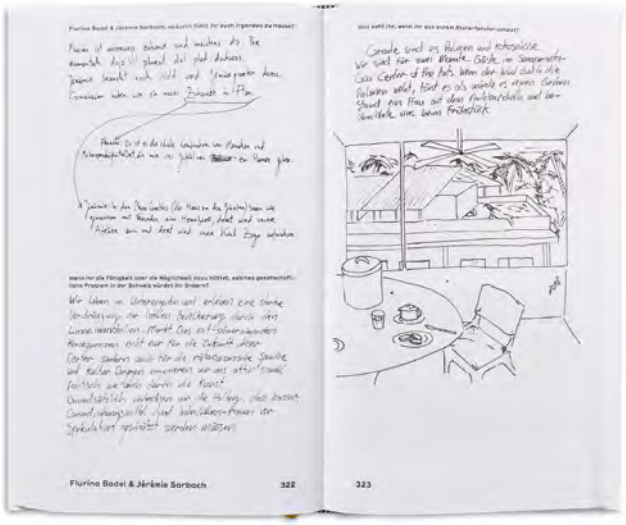
Art in the periphery

Lita Albuquerque, "Transparent Earth", 2018, Art Safiental 2018. Photo: Ueli Alder

Insights
100 artists in one book

This new art publication offers the first comprehensive insight into Swiss Post's art collection and focuses on the artists themselves. It features 100 artists from all parts of the country and different decades, with ten younger artists under the age of 40 being presented in particular detail, including portrait photos, texts about their work and handwritten responses. The other 90 artists are presented with their works and biographical details, illustrating the diversity of the Swiss art scene. The book also pays tribute to Switzerland's linguistic diversity. As such, the artists are represented in the language in which they communicate in Switzerland. All texts are available online in four languages. Swiss Post is right here for everyone.

More on the book at swisspost.ch/arte-book-100



A glimpse inside the book "Unser Engagement für die Kunst. An insight nella collezione d'arte de la Poste Suisse".

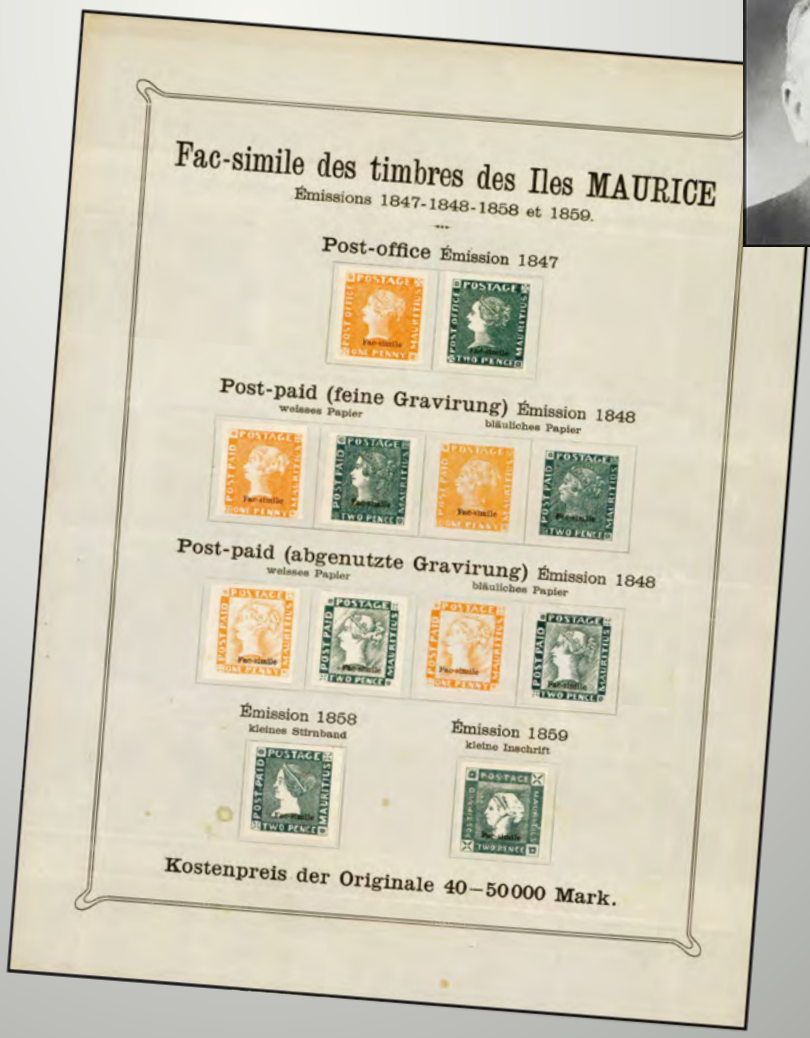
Forgeries and scandals

Yesterday's masterpieces – today's fakes

In the summer of 2025, Swiss stamps appeared in an online shop at ridiculously low prices. These stamps, which should only ever be available from Swiss Post, were forgeries – and using them is a criminal offence. Today, counterfeit products are frowned upon. But things used to be different: forgeries were considered an art form in their own right, even though they were never legal.

François Fournier, born in Geneva in 1846, didn't see himself as a fraud, but as a service provider. He wanted to make rare stamps accessible by creating 3,600 precise reproductions. Agents in more than 20 countries sold his replicas, which he labelled as facsimiles. However, these labels soon disappeared from the market, and many of his stamps resurfaced as supposed originals. In 1927, the Union Philatélique de Genève bought his estate and produced reference albums to warn collectors about his forgeries. At almost the same time, Jean de Sperati (see Focus on stamps 4/25) was creating reproductions of famous stamps. Both are now considered masters of their time – and a reminder that there is a world of difference in quality and skill between originals and copies.

Today's forgeries are mostly industrially manufactured and have no claim to artistic merit. Luckily, genuine Swiss stamps are produced to a high standard and with security features. All the better, because one thing is clear: counterfeiting is not a trivial offence, but a crime – then as now.



Portrait of François Fournier (1846–1917)

Image on the left: Reference page with Fournier replicas of the famous Mauritius stamps.

Text: Hanno Lietz; René Moor / Blueheart AG
Photos: Wikipedia

Most beautiful Swiss stamp of 2025

Switzerland has spoken: “Swiss wrestling” wins

Order using an order form or at postshop.ch

Which stamp impressed you most in 2025? We wanted to find out – and you cast more than 15,000 votes. The result was clear: the most beautiful Swiss stamp of 2025 is the “Swiss Wrestling and Alpine Festival 2025 Glarnerland+” special stamp.

From 25 September to 30 November 2025, Switzerland had the opportunity to vote for its favourite stamp. The choice ranged from the glittering stage of the Eurovision Song Contest to the rose window of Lausanne Cathedral – and far beyond, to the depths of our solar system. Of all these fantastic designs, the **special stamp featuring an Edelweiss pattern and tactile fabric** won out.

Second place was claimed by the knitted stamp **“Dove of peace”**, while third position went to the **“100 years Jean Tinguely”** special stamp, which depicts Basel’s Carnival Fountain.

Die schönste Schweizer Briefmarke 2025
Le plus beau timbre suisse 2025
Il più bel francobollo svizzero 2025
La pli bella marca postala da la Svizra 2025
The most beautiful Swiss stamp 2025
2025
HELVETIA 120
HELVETIA 580

“Most beautiful Swiss stamp of 2025” special cover

Limited issue of 2,025 items

Product
Most beautiful stamp of 2025

Special cover E6 (140 × 200 mm)
⊙ A678 990 / *CHF 9.90*

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

Stamp socks 2025

The new collection is here!

Two original designs are available: whether understated and elegant or striking and colourful, there’s something to suit every taste. The socks feature the stamps from 2025 and creative illustrations. Sustainably produced and OEKO-TEX®-certified, they’ll make you feel good with every step.

Only available at postshop.ch – order now!

Design 1 (Black Collection)
Sizes 36–40 and 41–46
Price: CHF 15.90

Design 2 (Yellow Collection)
Sizes 36–40 and 41–46
Price: CHF 15.90

Christmas stamps 2026

Help us choose!

As one Christmas passes, another one is just around the corner. This year, we’re asking again which designs you’d like to see on the next Christmas stamps. From 18 to 28 February 2026, you can cast your vote at swisspost.ch/stamps and, with a little luck, win a great prize.

Register now and reap the rewards

Online service

“My Philately”

Would you like to pay for your philately orders and subscriptions with your credit card? With the “My Philately” online service, you can save your credit card at any time and update your customer information.

Swiss Post’s new “My Philately” online service is bringing a breath of fresh air to the world of philately, offering a digital platform that revolutionizes the process of ordering stamps and subscriptions.

What makes My Philately special?
The joy of collecting begins when selecting stamps – but it shouldn’t end at the payment process. My Philately enables modern and secure credit card payment, allowing customers to register their payment details once and then order conveniently without an invoice in future. The data is saved in encrypted form and meets the highest security standards.

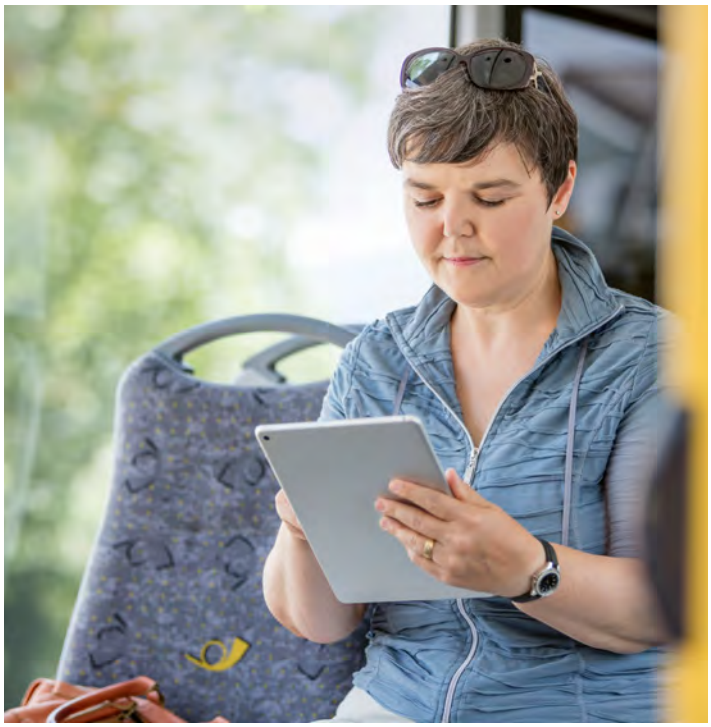
Benefits at a glance:
- Fast ordering process: there’s no need to re-enter payment details – once registered, you’re ready to go.
- Direct delivery: orders and subscriptions are processed automatically, with no waiting times.
- Data protection and security: state-of-the-art encryption protects your information.
- Ideal for new customers: an easy introduction to the world of stamps.

Visit swisspost.ch/myphilately and discover how easy and convenient philately can be.

Listen now

Focus on stamps as a podcast

The culture and collector’s magazine “Focus on stamps” is also available to listen to! Selected articles from each issue are available as audio files at swisspost.ch/podcast-focus-on-stamps. Ideal for when you’re on the go or sorting stamps, or just to relax and listen.



“Focus on stamps online” subscription

Discover the world of stamps anytime and anywhere

Who’s behind the current stamp themes? Which new products are on the market? “Focus on stamps” brings you fascinating news, background information and exclusive insights into the world of philately four times a year.

With “Focus on stamps online”, you receive your magazine as a handy PDF – **which you can access wherever and whenever you like.** Whether out and about, at the office or at home, your digital “Focus on stamps” is always available.

The advantages for you:
- **Available immediately** – no more waiting for the post to arrive.
- **Mobile and flexible** – read “Focus on stamps” on your smartphone.
- **Environmentally friendly** – no paper, no printing.
- **Archivable and searchable** – keep track of all issues.

Discover the fascinating stories behind these little works of art – with “Focus on stamps online”, the digital magazine for modern stamp fans.

Subscribe now at swisspost.ch/focus-on-stamps-subscription

Colourful stamps

Everything your heart desires

2025 year set

2025 year set with
first-day covers (FDC)

2025 year book

Zumstein stamp catalogue

Swiss stamp catalogue

Products

Issue set with single stamps 1/2026
The single stamps and sets in the 1/2026 issue are displayed on a free A5 backing card and protected with cellophane wrapping.
★ A638 150 / ⊙ A638 550 / *CHF 19.20*

Issue set with first-day covers (FDC) 1/2026
The first-day covers with single stamps and sets in the 1/2026 issue are combined in one free cover.
⊙ A638 580 / *CHF 26.20*

2025 year book
Representing a valuable record of our times, the year book presents all Swiss stamps and first-day cancellations for 2025, along with an exclusive black print, on over 100 pages in four languages (de/fr/it/en).
★ A615 830 / ⊙ A615 831 / *CHF 96.00*

2025 year set
All Swiss stamps for 2025, clearly laid out on four handy display cards with transparent protective sleeve.
★ A616 320 / ⊙ A616 820 / *CHF 83.15*

2025 year set with first-day covers (FDC)
All first-day covers in 2025 – including the single stamps, sets or miniature sheets with the relevant first-day cancellations.
⊙ A616 530 / *CHF 107.75*

Zumstein stamp catalogue Switzerland/Liechtenstein/UN Geneva
2026, German/French
★ A608 725 / *CHF 35.00*

Swiss stamp catalogue
2026, German/French
★ A608 787 / *CHF 29.00*
The stamp catalogues can be delivered in Switzerland and Liechtenstein only.

Key
★ mint / ⊙ cancelled

You can find all our products at postshop.ch

Event calendar

See you soon?

Philately

5 March

Issue date 1/2026

26 March

Publication date of Focus on stamps 2/2026

7 May

Issue date 2/2026

23 July

Publication date of Focus on stamps 3/2026

3 September

Issue date 3/2026

24 September

Publication date of Focus on stamps 4/2026

5 November

Issue date 4/2026

The right to make updates and changes is reserved. The latest version can always be found at swisspost.ch/collecting-stamps.

Museum of Communication

22 January to 12 March (Thursdays from 5–8 p.m.)

Event series **Beer at the Museum**
After-work beer and exhibition at a special price.

Until 22 February

Exhibition **Gezeichnet 2025**
The best media drawings of the year.

20 March (6 p.m. – 2 a.m.)

Event **Night of the Museums**
Vibrant and eventful – the best night of the year at all museums in Bern.

Until 19 July

Exhibition **Massen – Foules – Crowds**
Discover the fascinating world of crowds.

The right to make updates and changes is reserved.

Swiss Post's commitment to art

Friday, 26 June, 6.30 p.m.

Preview **Glimmers of Home**
Collaborative exhibition by Swiss Post and the Museum of Art in St. Gallen: Museumsstrasse 32, 9000 St. Gallen.

Art in dialogue

Swiss Post's public series of discussions, "Let's talk about", will continue in 2026.

More information can be found here:

swisspost.ch/art-in-dialogue

Issuing programme

Anticipation is the greatest feeling

Issue date: 7 May 2026
Featured in: Focus on stamps 2/2026

3.30	**Pro Patria – Swiss cultural heritage**
1.00+0.50	Tangible
1.20+0.60	Intangible
2.40	**EUROPA – 70th anniversary of EUROPA stamp**
1.20	United in cooperation
1.20	United in uniqueness
1.90	**200 years shipping on Lake Maggiore**
1.20	**550 years Battles of Grandson and Murten**
1.20	**Federal Music Festival 2026, Biel/Bienne**
1.20	**125 years Military Insurance**
3.60	**100 years swisstopo flight service**
1.20	Geneva
1.20	Wabern
1.20	Samedan
4.80	**Inclusion – Mental health**
1.20	Alles Käse
1.20	Fly high
1.20	Beflügelt
1.20	Sorpresa

Subject to change.
As at: December 2025

Exhibition covers

International stamp exhibitions

Since 2025, Swiss Post has stopped producing exhibition covers for trade fairs abroad. As a result, the corresponding set is no longer available. Swiss Post is still actively represented at a variety of stamp exhibitions abroad, and all dates and locations can be found in the event calendar. Visitors will be able to have their individual items cancelled on-site with a commemorative postmark.

Art that connects – discover our exclusive art editions!

Swiss Post is committed to art in Switzerland.
Get one of our limited art editions created in connection with the art stamps now.

Only while stocks last.

Numbered art edition
“Le invisibili”

on canvas paper with original signature of the artist Marta Margnetti in a limited edition of 100 copies.
Portrait format 297 × 187 mm, unframed.
Price: CHF 200.–

Numbered art edition
“inter-respirar”

on antique hand-woven linen from Switzerland. Embossed on the front with the initials of the artist Mirko Baselgia. Limited issue of 99 copies.
Portrait format 297 × 187 mm, unframed.
Price: CHF 250.–

Numbered art edition
“Art in the periphery”

printed with chlorophyll pigments on Rives handmade paper with original signature of the artist Monica Ursina Jäger in a limited edition of 200 copies.
Portrait: 500 × 380 mm, unframed.
Price: CHF 220.–

Scan and order
at **postshop.ch**